

American Junior Red Cross

NEWS

December



W. H. Emerson



Christmas Time

Decoration by Beatrice Tobias

The church bells at Christmas time
Ring all about the town.
The gay folks at Christmas time
Go walking up and down.
They smile at me.
They smile at you.
The streets are gay and smiling, too.

In every house at Christmas time
Are pretty sights to see.
Strange things at Christmas time
Do grow upon a tree.
But best of all at Christmas time
The snow comes down so gay,
And makes for all at Christmas time,
A Merry Christmas Day!

*Edith McMillan, 6th Grade Central
School, Haddonfield, New Jersey, in
a book of poems sent by her school as
a gift to Irish Junior Red Cross.*

ET

American Junior Red Cross NEWS

VOLUME 29 NUMBER 3 PART 1

CONTENTS

DECEMBER 1947

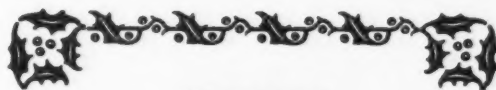
	Page
COVER—CHRISTMAS IN LAPLAND.....	1
Olle Nordmark	
FRONTISPIECE—CHRISTMAS TIME.....	2
Poem by Edith McMillan	
THE FEAST DAY OF ST. NICHOLAS.....	4
Story by Marion Short Elmer	
THE LAPPS.....	7
Ernst Manker	
OLD CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS.....	8
Christine Kay Simmons	
CHRISTMAS MUSIC.....	11
Story by May Justus	
KINGS' DAY IN SPAIN.....	13
Edward Huberman	
SANTA'S HELPERS—Picture Feature.....	14
FROM THE LAND OF THE HUSKIES.....	16
School Correspondence	
IDEAS ON THE MARCH.....	19
POLISH CHRISTMAS PARTY.....	21
INTERNATIONAL SANTA CLAUS.....	22
AUSTRIAN NIECES AND NEPHEWS.....	23
Dora Jane Hamblin	
THE SHEPHERD BOY.....	24
Poem by Reverend Patrick O'Connor from the Irish Junior Red Cross Christmas Annual	
TOPICS FOR TEACHERS.....	26

"American Junior Red Cross News" is published monthly, in two parts, October through May, by the American National Red Cross. Copyright 1947 by the American National Red Cross, Washington, D. C.

Enrollment of elementary schools in the American Junior Red Cross includes a subscription to the "News" on the basis of one copy for each classroom enrolled. Enrollment is for the calendar year. Enrollment fee is 50 cents per room. For further information concerning enrollment and the Junior Red Cross program see your local Red Cross chapter.

Individual subscriptions to the "News" are accepted at 50 cents a year, 10 cents a single copy.

The "News" was entered as second-class matter January 18, 1921, at the post office, Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized January 3, 1921.



KEEPING CHRISTMAS

This Christmas issue of the News brings you stories of how boys and girls in many parts of the world keep Christmas.

The beautiful cover was painted by your friend, Olle Nordmark. He has pictured the way Lapland folk keep Christmas inside their snug warm tents of reindeer skins. Outside the tent in his picture, he shows the snowy fields and mountains of the northland, brilliantly colored by vivid splashes of light hung like a curtain across the skies. This curtain of light is called the Aurora Borealis.

After you have looked at the cover, you will want to turn to the stories that tell you how children in other lands celebrate Christmas. You will find many pictures in this issue of the News, too, which will show you Christmas celebrations, and how Junior Red Cross members are helping to make others happy.

The little Christmas designs used on many of the pages are copies of Christmas tree ornaments which were sent to the American Junior Red Cross by the Juniors of Czechoslovakia.

You will read in this issue about many different Christmas customs. Though the kind of celebration may be different, you will see that the spirit is much the same everywhere. Whether the celebration is called Christmas or Hanukkah, Kings' Day or Noel, or by some other name, doesn't matter at all. Wherever there are children, and love, and a spirit of "good will toward men," there you will find fun and joy, happy surprises of giving and receiving gifts, and a warm feeling of friendliness. The only thing that really counts is that we keep the right Christmas spirit in our own hearts.

In the words of the old carol, may

"Love and joy come to you . . .
And God bless you and send you
A happy New Year."

That is my Christmas wish for members of the American Junior Red Cross everywhere.

—Lois S. Johnson, editor





The Feast Day of St. Nicholas

MARION SHORT ELMER

Pictures by Marya Werten

IT HAD BEEN an exciting day. Following the custom in their neighborhood, Martje's family had journeyed on the day before St. Nicholas Day to the nearby city of Amsterdam in Holland to enjoy the holiday festivities and crowds.

All day long Martje's shining blue eyes had feasted on the bright shop displays, the gay people hurrying to and fro, and the numerous figures of St. Nicholas and Black Piet. Now her eyes blinked sleepily during the long holiday dinner of roast goose and cabbage.

Outside, the winter winds shrilled and whistled about the house, because, although St. Nicholas Day in Holland comes early in December—on the sixth day—winter had already settled in.

The dinner-table talk flowed around Martje and she closed her eyes. Suddenly, she was startled by her brother's exclamation.

"Here it is, Martje!" he called. "Remember I told you about the dust sheet?"

Now her eyes opened. She turned to her mother.

"The dust sheet," she breathed. "Mother, is it really true?"

Mother laughed. "Yes, my dear, it is really true. Now, Rupert, you are a big boy. Take one end of this sheet and help me spread it out."

Then she went on talking to the little girl.

"This is the dust sheet, Martje. It is only an ordinary bedsheet, but we save it from year

to year and bring it out only on the Strooiavond. Ask your father what that big word means."

"Strooiavond," explained Father, with a smile, "is the name given to this night, the night before St. Nicholas Day. The word itself means spreading or strewing around and after St. Nicholas pays his call you will understand why it is called that."

By this time Mother and Rupert had spread the sheet and anchored the four corners with heavy dishes. Now the whole family sat on the floor around the sheet waiting for St. Nicholas.

While they waited, Father told them stories about Strooiavond celebrations when he was a boy. After a while, he looked at his huge gold watch. Then he held it to his ear to make sure it was running.

"I think," he said, "that it is almost time for St. Nicholas to arrive. So Rupert, you put out the lights and then you and Martje come and sit here, near your mother. Mother, will you help them sing some songs—in good loud voices—so that St. Nicholas can hear them as he comes near our house? I'll go out into the yard to watch for him."

Mother smiled and she and the children gathered around the dust sheet and began to sing as Father left the room. Martje and Rupert each held one of their mother's hands because now it was quite dark in the room. On the floor in the middle of the room, the dust

sheet showed up gleaming white in the dark.

Soon they heard a strange pawing sound outside the door, and then a shower of color descended on the white sheet. Oranges, nuts, candies, and sweetmeats of all kinds were scattered on the sheet.

As the children excitedly gathered these up, they heard the door open and into the room walked St. Nicholas! He was tall—oh, so very tall—and he had on a high hat with a red cross on it. His robe was red and so long that it dragged on the floor and it was richly trimmed with fur.

Behind him walked Black Piet, a big black man, who was the faithful helper of St. Nicholas. Together these two, with their horse, Sleipnir, were about to begin their journey visiting all the children in Holland.

St. Nicholas walked across the room to shake hands with the mother.

"Good evening to you," he said in a loud clear voice as he took her hand.

Mother's eyes were filled with laughter as she shook hands with the Saint.

Then St. Nicholas turned to the children who were still kneeling on the sheet.

"Well! Well!" he exclaimed. "What have we here? Two good children?"

Rupert and Martje were really too surprised to answer and then Martje, because she was so little, began to cry. Rupert put his arm around her and held her tightly to him.

"She is good, St. Nicholas," he said. "But she is so little that she is afraid."

"Oh ho!" laughed St. Nicholas. "So you take care of little Martje! And what about you? Have you been good this past year?"

Rupert looked anxiously at his mother who



smiled at him. Then he said, "I try to be, St. Nicholas."

St. Nicholas laughed again. Then he reached into his deep pockets, pulled out some more sweetmeats, and threw them on the sheet.

"Here are some more goodies for you," he said. "And tomorrow morning you shall find out whether I have been here or not."

Then he and Black Piet went out of the room and Martje, peeking from under Rupert's protecting arm, watched them go.

"Oh, Mother," asked Rupert, "do you think St. Nicholas minded that Martje cried?"

"Will he bring me any presents now?" asked Martje anxiously.

Mother laughed, "I'm sure that he will, Martje. I don't think he cared at all because he knows that you are only a little girl. Now

pick up all the sweetmeats and we will hurry and go to bed."

The children placed the goodies in the dishes at the sheet corners.

"Now," cried Martje, "now, Mother, do we put out our klompens?"

"Yes," answered her mother. "First, you must be sure that they are clean and then I will give you some hay for them. We will fill



They put hay in their klompens for the horse.

each one so that St. Nicholas' horse will not go hungry at our house."

Soon both pairs of klompens were standing side by side in front of the fireplace. Mother locked the door to the parlor and hid the key in her bedroom because they all knew that St. Nicholas must not be disturbed when he came.

It was now past 9 o'clock on St. Nicholas Eve. A great deal had happened since morning and the children had hardly turned over in their beds before they were fast asleep.

NEXT MORNING it was not necessary for Mother to call either Rupert or Martje. They were up long before she was. First, they hurried to examine their klompens. Each little wooden shoe had been filled with goodies and every little wisp of hay had disappeared. Then they began to look for their presents. Black Piet had hidden everything so well that it was some time before any parcels were discovered.

Then, suddenly, Rupert called out, "Here, Martje! Come here! I have found a package!"

Martje ran to the fireplace where Rupert was bending over the shiny copper saucepan that hung beside the chimney. Out of it he took a package almost as big as the pan itself.

"Open it! Hurry, Rupert!" cried Martje, clapping her hands with glee.

Rupert read the tag on the package, saying "To Mother." Mother then took the package and tore off the paper. Inside there was a box with a tag which read—"To Rupert." The little boy's eyes were shining as he took the package back and opened the box. But, alas, inside was still another tag, reading—"To Father."

So Father untied the package and there was—a doll! They all laughed at Father until he

found a ribbon around the doll's neck and on the ribbon a tag, reading, "To Martje." So Martje got the first present after all!

This scene was repeated many times until all the presents had been found.

Best of all the gifts, Rupert thought, were his silver buttons which were as big as saucers. Martje had found them. They had been in a big box just their size, hidden on one of the thick oak beams that supported the ceiling. These silver buttons had belonged to his great-grandfather and Rupert was very proud to own them now. He knew that among all his friends, no one would have such fine buttons to fasten at his waist.

Now Mother was beginning to get ready for the day's next treat. It was the gingerbread cakes! These lovely spiced cakes were made in all sorts of shapes but there was always a gingerbread doll for everyone. Now Mother filled the baskets and plates with these cakes because it was past noon and time for visiting to begin. Every neighbor who comes to visit will receive a gingerbread doll to take home.

Many of these cooky cutters have been handed down through many generations and are precious to their owners. Martje looked with pride at the cooky molds which belonged to her great-grandmother and which will someday be hers.

The visiting went on all afternoon and to everyone who came, Rupert showed his silver buttons—so proud was he of them.

All afternoon, Martje watched everything with sparkling eyes. Both children were so tired from joy and excitement that it is little wonder that Mother tucked them into bed as early as 6 o'clock—and the gala day was over for another year.



The Lapps

ERNST MANKER
of Stockholm, Sweden

Several months ago, Major Hans Brunes of the Swedish Junior Red Cross visited our office in Washington, D. C. He was much interested to see the Lapland cover which Olle Nordmark had made for this December News.

When Major Brunes returned to Sweden, he asked his friend, Ernst Manker, to write this story about the Lapps to go with the cover.

—The Editor



ACME PHOTO

LAPPS OR Laplanders live on all the northern areas of Scandinavia and the Kola peninsula. They are really scattered over four different countries. Of the more than 32,000 Lapps in this region, about 8,500 live in Sweden, 20,000 in Norway, 2,000 in Finland, and 1,800 in Russia.

Their origin is shrouded in mystery. As hunters of wild reindeer, they probably followed the receding land ice from their former home somewhere in Eastern Europe, many thousand years ago. We know that since 500 B. C. the Lapps have made their home in northern Scandinavia, near the Arctic Circle.

The Lapps are a short people—even the men seldom grow much taller than 5 feet. Their heads are broad. Their cheek-bones are pronounced. They are very pleasant looking people. They have strong, well-built bodies and walk in a free and easy manner. In their peaked hats and colorful costumes, they make a real picture in the forests and on the mountains.

Wherever there are Lapps, there also are reindeer. Because the reindeer must be taken where they can find food, the Lapps have had to lead a nomadic life, following their reindeer herds sometimes over a distance of 250 miles. They go from the forest areas where they spend the winter, to the mountains where the reindeer graze in the grassy pastures during the summer.

When the Lapps move from place to place, they take with them a kind of tent, shaped like an Indian tepee. They call it a "kata."

This tent is usually made of reindeer skins. Here and there they have built permanent huts, which are cone-shaped and made of peat. These are called "kator."

The Lapps have often tamed the wild reindeer, and have trained them to be excellent pack and draught animals. The reindeer are not only trained to pull their sleighs and work for them, they also furnish the Lapps milk for drinking and for making cheese. From the reindeer they get hides for their tents, their clothing, and boots. They use tallow for waterproofing their boots. Even the bones of the reindeer furnish fishing tackle, snares, and other implements.

Most Lapps have now settled down in one place. They earn their living by farming in a small way, or by caring for reindeer by modern methods. This means that the whole family is not needed to help with the reindeer. They can live all year round in the same place, while the younger men follow the herds.

This does not mean that the old way of life has disappeared. In some parts of Lapland, the Lapps still live in "kator," and move from place to place with their long reindeer caravans.

It is no uncommon sight to see a Lapp "kata" pitched in an open field, the family's reindeer cropping moss in the snow nearby while the family is snug and warm inside its tent. Outside the shimmering colored lights of the Aurora Borealis weave strange patterns across the heavens, just as you see in the cover picture of your magazine.



CHRISTINE KAY SIMMONS

Illustrations by Elizabeth Miller

CHRISTMAS customs everywhere remind us of the spirit of giving and rejoicing.

Before the coming of the Christ Child, the people of Europe especially looked forward each winter to the return of the longer days of sunshine in December. To show their joy the Jews had a Festival of Lights, the Norsemen held a Yuletide celebration, and the Romans, a Feast of Saturn.

Because people have always loved the warmth of the sun's rays, many of our Christmas customs have to do with fire, candles, lamps, the burning of the Yule log, and brightly lighted homes and streets.

CHRIST MASS

THE CHRIST MASS, established by decree to celebrate the birthday of Christ, was dated to coincide with these earlier festivals. The decree was issued some 400 years after Christ's birth in order to combine the two. Thus, while Christmas features adoration of the Infant born in Bethlehem, as well as reverence for his mother, it is always made gay and bright with reminders of the earlier festivals.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

ON DECEMBER 17 each year, beginning at sundown, the Jewish people observe Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights. Hanukkah means "dedication," and the ceremony features the renewal of the ever-burning lamp. This is done by kindling one light of the Hanukkah lamp the first night. Another is lighted for each of the nights following until eight are burned.

Hanukkah is a joyous festival. Plays are given, songs of thanksgiving are sung, games are played, gifts are exchanged. The most popular game is played with a "dreidle," a ceremonial toy similar to a small spinning top. On each of the four sides of this top is one of the Hebrew letters that begins the words, "A great miracle happened there." Pancakes and cheese food are served. It is easy

to realize why Hanukkah is an especially happy festival for children.

Understanding Jews and tolerant Christians combine Christmas and Hanukkah customs and carols. They recall that, as a Jew, Christ celebrated the Hanukkah.

CHRISTMAS CANDLES AND CEREMONIES

IN CATHOLIC countries Christmas Eve begins the holiday season. In France, Italy, Germany, Poland, Austria, and Hungary, as well as among the Czechs, Serbs, Yugoslavs, and the Greeks, religious rites and rituals take first place. There is much use of candles, as in Serbia.

On Christmas Eve in Serbia, a candle is lighted, then the head of the family makes the sign of the cross with it, saying, "Christ is born," and the family replies, "He is born indeed."

A second candle is lighted at Christmas noon, and after the offering of a prayer, is blown out by the head of the house. He then runs to the place where his grain is kept and shoves the warm end of the candle into the grain. From the amount of grain clinging to the candle, he estimates his crop for the next season.

A third candle is lighted on New Year's Day and kept until the Feast of the Three Wise Kings on January 6. Each one of the family then receives a piece of ceremonial cake to show that he will share in the good fortune of the coming year.

SYMBOLS OF THE STABLE

HAY is often brought into the homes to symbolize Christ's birth in a stable. It is used to decorate the table and is strewn upon the floor. There is also the custom of remembering each animal on the farm with special food.

Small stables—complete with figures of the Holy Family, angels, shepherds, the three Wise Men, and kneeling animals—are built in many homes in Europe.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

FROM THE TIME of the singing of the first Christmas carol by the angels to herald the Christ Child's birth, music has been an important part of Christmas.

In southern Italy bands of musicians visit neighboring towns to play special Christmas music in the homes.

On the Great Hungarian Plain, this custom is called the "Bethlehem Singing." Five or six boys practice the old songs, make costumes for themselves, and construct a "Bethlehem" of cardboard in the shape of a church or a manger, with figures of the Holy Family and the animals inside. On Christmas Eve the boys visit the homes of the village carrying their "Bethlehem" and singing Christmas songs as they go. The children expect them and greet them with shouts of joy.

YULE LOG

BURNING the Yule log is one of the old customs of northern and western Europe.

Among the Jugoslavs "Badniak" signifies the big log cut in the woods the day before Christmas and carried into the home. One end of the fresh wood is placed in the fire so that it burns slowly and lasts throughout the holidays. On Christmas morning the first neighbor to come is handed a shovel. He strikes the log and, as the sparks fly out, he makes a wish for much luck and prosperity.

In small Czech towns or country districts each person makes a Christmas wish and going to the woodpile, takes up an armful of hearth sticks or small logs and carries it in. If an odd number of sticks is brought, the carrier has no prospect of getting his wish, while an even number signifies that it will come true.

The people of central Italy bring into the home on Christmas Eve a huge log of pine or fir. Before it is thrown onto the fire the children's eyes are blindfolded. They tap the log with a stick and make a wish. When their blinds are removed their presents are lying before the fireplace and the log is burning brightly.

THE CHRISTMAS TREE

THE GERMAN people are credited with the most thorough-going use of trees at this time—the Christmas Tree, a-glitter with lights and trimmings. It is com-

mon in Scandinavian countries, also. Here, it remains until after Twelfth Night, when children are allowed to visit the homes on forays to "plunder" as many as possible!

CHRISTMAS FEASTS

THE NORWEGIAN festivities begin on Christmas Eve with a supper with "lutefisk"—a specially prepared fish-roast, rice-pudding and breaded spare ribs, a relic of the time when a whole roasted boar was served at the Yule Festival. Singing and dancing follow the repast and at midnight the gifts from the tree are distributed. The evening usually ends with a joining of hands 'round the tree and the singing of a Christmas hymn.

The Swedish celebration is very similar to the Norwegian. Their famous holiday drink is known as "gloegg." It is brewed by the housewife of raisins, cinnamon, almonds, cloves, cardamons, orange peel, and whatever else one's fancy dictates. After mixing and boiling, the roughness is taken off by burning. This beverage plays a large part at the Christmas Eve supper.

ST. NICHOLAS

FROM THE COUNTRIES of Western Europe, where St. Nicholas and the Three Wise Men rival each other as Santa Claus, to the great steppes of Russia, Christmas is marked by special legendary persons and customs.

The tale of the woman who started out with the Three Wise Kings and was lost, lives for the Italians in "Befana" and for Russian children in "Babushka." She seeks out lonely children for special gifts.

CUSTOMS IN THE BRITISH ISLES

IN THE British Isles, we find interesting variations of nearly all the customs found on the continent. These are well told in a letter from a little boy of Eire. He writes:

"There's always the carol singing, of course.

In England it is still called 'waits' singing. A 'wait' was really a street watchman who went the rounds of the towns from Michaelmas (in September) to Shrove Tuesday (usually in March). The 'Waitsmen' wore fine uniforms and part of their duty was to 'pipe the watch' each hour. They were musicians and dancers as well as guards and they often performed before the Lord Mayor of London.





"But of course the wait singing and dancing were part of the church festivities. As late as the 1600's choir boys in England used to dance and sing in the nave of the church after morning prayers on Christmas. Car-

ols are the yule-tide songs of joy, and many have the dance tunes they had in the beginning.

"Long ago the Norse people used to hold a feast for the God, Thor, called Yule. On that day they built up the fires of their hearths. The English took over this custom and the Irish added to it, so that to this day a family gathering or a party of neighbors on Christmas eve has to have the burning of the Yule log.

"A great log, roots and all, is dragged into the house and its end set into the fireplace. It is lighted with a faggot from the Yule fire of the year before and kept burning the night time through. The reverence for trees was in the heart of the Irish from the time of the Druids, but its Christian meaning comes from the cross of Christ.

"Then there are always the lighted candles. Everyone has candles in his windows—sometimes one large one, sometimes a seven candle

holder, and sometimes twelve. There must be lights in the windows from Christmas Eve until Epiphany or Twelfth Night. These are to cheer the Little Men that go about doing good or to guide the Wise Men as they journey from afar to the Manger. The old folks say the lights draw the spirit of good and keep off evil.

"And of course the Irish always hang stockings near the chimney on Christmas Eve. They tell that this is St. Nicholas' best invitation to give presents. Long ago when he was an Archbishop in Asia Minor, he went about doing good on the sly. Once when he dropped a purse down a poor man's chimney, it fell into a stocking that was hung up to dry. Doing good by stealth is like the ways of the fairies, so it appeals to the Irish.

"Besides, it is customary to do a lot with boughs of trees and winter plants. In the old days plants that kept their life through the cold season were thought to have magic powers. For this reason holly and mistletoe were gathered and brought indoors and hung from the rafters. These sacred plants were supposed to help people stay at peace with each other. An old legend tells that if two enemies met by chance underneath a branch of mistletoe, they laid down their weapons and embraced each other.

"Even though Christmas customs may differ from one country to another, the real spirit of Christmas remains much the same no matter where a person lives."

Santa Claus Day in Switzerland
—Dressed in white costumes, illuminated headgear, and cardboard masks, children in Zurich, Switzerland, parade with horns and bells in honor of Santa.





DRAWING BY
ELIZABETH MILLER

Christmas Music

MAY JUSTUS

DOWN AT THE Mission school, they were getting ready for Christmas. The children were learning Christmas carols and Christmas recitations.

Mary Ellen was learning "The Night Before Christmas." Lovie Lane was trying to learn "Away in a Manger."

"That's not a regular piece to say—it's a song," said Mary Ellen.

"I'm going to say it," Lovie replied, "because I think it's pretty, and it won't take so long to learn."

Lovie never said long recitations, while Mary Ellen liked that kind. She scorned anything short and easy. How she loved the Christmas songs! To stand by the little old organ and sing to the marvelous music it made. She led the other children. It was easy for her to carry a tune. She had a good ear for music.

One day Miss Ellison told the school that some outlander people were coming to visit the Mission on Christmas Eve, and Santa Claus was coming with them.

The little ones gave whoops of delight, and the older ones cheered with them, for everybody was thrilled to think of having company for Christmas.

Uncle Tobe Carr who was chopping wood a little way down the mountain rushed up to see if the house was on fire.

"What's all this hip-and-hurrah?" he cried as he burst through the door.

When he found that nothing was the matter, he sat down to hear the children sing.

"Did you like the songs, Uncle Tobe?" Mary Ellen asked the old man as he walked along with her up the trail when school was over.

"I did for a fact," he replied. "I was thinking that very minute what pretty fiddle tunes they would make if I could learn them."

"They are easy to learn," Mary Ellen said, and then to prove it to him, she sang her favorite song, "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful."

"That's a grand tune," said Uncle Tobe. "I could pick it up now and carry it along if I had my old fiddle."

At the parting of their ways, Uncle Tobe said, "Maybe we'll drap in after supper, and you can help me get that tune while my wife and your granny gossip."

"Come," Mary Ellen invited him. "We'll be right glad to have you. Granny said this morning that she hadn't seen you all for more than a month of Sundays."

That night Mary Ellen taught Uncle Tobe the tune, and he practiced it on his fiddle till he had it well enough to suit him. Then he wanted to learn another. But that had to wait till another time.

"It's getting late," said Aunt Hannah, lighting a pine torch to guide them home.

"You must come again soon," said Granny. "Come down as often as you can. I like to see my neighbors."

After that Uncle Tobe and Aunt Hannah came in quite often after supper and sat with them until bedtime. Of course he brought his fiddle along, for as he told Mary Ellen, he had his mind set on learning some new tunes

while he had a chance to practice with her.

Down at the Mission, preparations went on for the coming Christmas program. Day by day the time slipped by. The little ones counted on their fingers. At last they could count on one hand the days to come before Christmas. Christmas Eve and the Christmas tree! Christmas Eve and the program! Santa Claus and the outlander company! No wonder there was so much excitement. No wonder that lessons were half-forgotten and then left off entirely.

And then the bad luck happened—on the very last day of school it was, early in the morning, right in the middle of a Christmas song, the organ stopped. The children stopped. They didn't know what was the matter. They asked the teacher, but she didn't know. The organ had simply stopped playing.

"Something has gone wrong inside of it,"

she said. "Something must have broken. It's a very, very old organ, you know."

But whatever was the matter couldn't very well be helped just then. They would have to get along without music.

Miss Ellison started the next song, and the children tried to follow, but somehow they didn't do so very well. They were used to the music of the organ. Some of their voices sounded flat, some were rather squeaky.

Then Mary Ellen had an idea:

"Uncle Tobe can play for us!" she cried. "He has learned all the tunes on his fiddle!"

"Oh, if he will!" the teacher said.

"Oh, if he will!" echoed the children.

"I know he will," Mary Ellen said. "I know he will if I ask him."

The teacher allowed her to go right away, and Lovie Lane went along with her to keep her company. When they came back down the mountain, Uncle Tobe was walking be-



PICTURE BY HELEN FINGER LEFLAR

Uncle Tobe practiced the tunes on his fiddle while Mary Ellen sang.

tween them, and he was bringing his fiddle.

"Thank you for coming," Miss Ellison told him.

"Thank you!" chorused the children.

"You're all right welcome," Uncle Tobe replied, "but you'd better thank Mary Ellen for she is the one who helped me to learn the Christmas tunes on my fiddle."

The Christmas program was a great success. The little schoolhouse was crowded with people who had come to see the Christmas tree and the Christmas Eve exercises. The Christmas tree itself was a joy to behold, filling one corner of the room and hanging full of mysterious gifts which nobody but Santa knew anything about as yet. Yes, Santa Claus was present. He had come along with the outlander folk but he did not act like a stranger. He shook hands with most of the grown people and hugged and kissed the babies and went about patting everybody on the head.

There was so much fun and excitement it was a wonder the children could remember their Christmas songs and recitations when the time came—but they did! In fact they did much better than they had ever done before.

It may have been Uncle Tobe's fiddle that started them right and kept them going.



PICTURE BY HELEN FINGER LEFLAR

Uncle Tobe came back carrying his fiddle.

Yes, come to think of it, it may have been that fiddle!



Kings' Day in Spain

EDWARD HUBERMAN

EVERY YEAR, on the night of January 5, the children of Spain leave their shoes on their window balconies or on their window sills, for at midnight the Three Wise Men from the East come along. Several weeks beforehand, the boys and girls write letters to these Three Wise Men, who are sometimes known as the Three Kings, or the Three Magi; and the children ask for toys and other gifts. If a girl or a boy has been good during the year, the Magi Kings will leave him some or all of the things he has asked for. If he has been very bad, they may put only charcoal in his shoes. But they almost always pardon children who have been only slightly bad.

Gaspar, Melchior, and Balthasar are the

names of the Three Kings, and on their trips to the West they always take along three horses, three camels laden with toys, and three helpers. Among other things, the helpers feed the camels and climb up to window balconies with toys.

One of the Kings is black, and one of the helpers is black, but that makes no difference to the others. They are all close friends and fellow workers, and they all have good hearts.

January 6 is Kings' Day in Spain, for on that day all the little children wake up to find the toys which the Kings have brought from their castle in the East.

And at Christmas season, about two weeks before, most of the little boys in Spain bring together bits of cork, silver paper, twigs, sticks, cloth, and a goodly number of clay figures of people and animals. With these materials they build a Christmas scene, representing a certain day in Bethlehem long, long ago.

(From the Introduction to "Merry Tales from Spain" by Antoniorobbles, used by courtesy of John C. Winston Co., Philadelphia.)



▲ A Christmas star from Garrett Park, Maryland.



▲ Christmas activities, Alexandria, Virginia.

Christmas cut-outs, Garrett Park, Maryland. ▼



▲ An officer in Japan puts the last touch to this Christmas tree, decorated entirely with trimmings made by Junior Red Cross.

Even the littlest members help on Christmas gifts. ▼



Santa's Helpers

FOR WEEKS before Christmas Santa's helpers in the Junior Red Cross all over the country are busy making gifts to share with others, such as tree ornaments, menu covers, filled stockings.

AMERICAN RED CROSS PHOTOS



JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA JOURNAL PHOTO

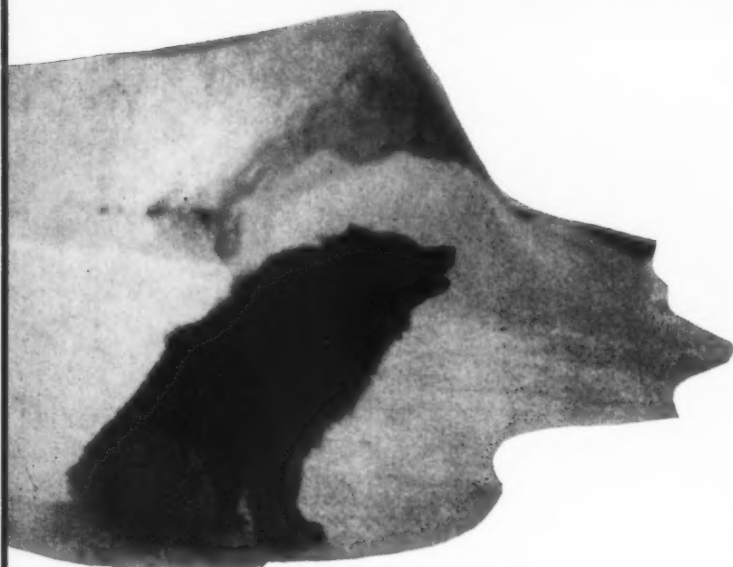
▲ Filling Christmas stockings—Jacksonville, Florida

▼ Making decorations, Garrett Park, Maryland. ▼



Santa's helpers at work in Alexandria, Virginia. ➤





— from the

Alaskan children like to ski and ride on dog sleds. They wear fur parkas—but you'll want to read for yourself about how they live, as told in these albums from the land of the famous "Husky" dogs.

TWELVE MILES northwest of Kodiak, Alaska, on Spruce Island is the little town of Ouzinkie whose population may increase to 250 in summer when the cannery is open but in winter shrinks to about 50 persons. For several years the children in the Ouzinkie school have received Junior Red Cross gift boxes from the mainland which were distributed at Christmas time.

"The children enjoyed the boxes so very much," wrote the teacher. "The items contained in the boxes are either not available here or are very expensive at the cannery operated store."

However, the spirit of Junior Red Cross which prompted the sending of these gift boxes is contagious. Recently we learned that the Ouzinkie children had talked the matter over and decided that since there are so many other children less fortunate than they it was time for them to give rather than to receive. "In September we will have money since our parents will be paid off for the fishing season about that time. How can we go about packing Junior Red Cross gift boxes?"

Because of the cunning fur dolls they had made, the tiny parkas and mukluks, as well as the fine bead work done by native Alaskan children, it was suggested to the Alaskan boys and girls that these would be the very nicest kind of things for them to make for gift boxes going abroad. A few of the articles they made are shown on these pages.

For many years only a small amount of school correspondence from Alaska has been received for exchange with other schools because of the difficulties in mailing. A school

in Rampart wrote about the delivery of mail:

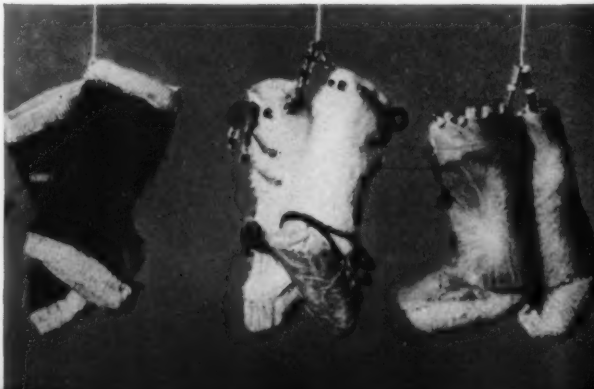
"We get our mail in winter by dog team. It comes every 2 weeks. In the summer we get the mail by boat. It comes every 2 weeks. It took your letter 11 days to get here from San Francisco but our teacher got a letter from New Mexico 3,000 miles away in 3 days by airplane."

Nevertheless life in Rampart sounds interesting:

"We live on the Yukon River and by a lake so we can go skating. Once we were all skating on the lake when a little red fox ran out from the forest and crossed the lake. There are 20 children in our school now!"

"In summer we go below the town to an eddy and swim. Most children learn to swim. We also pick blueberries, raspberries, strawberries, and cranberries. We sometimes go on high hills to get the big blueberries. We take boat and canoe rides on the river. For our winter fun we set snares, catch rabbits. We slide with skis and slide down hills with sleds. We build Eskimo houses out of snow.

Tiny fur mukluks, used as lapel ornaments, made by Junior Red Cross members, Bethel, Alaska.



land of the HUSKIES

The Eskimos call them igloos. We use two to five dogs. The big women and men use six to ten dogs.

"Most of our houses are built of logs; some are built of lumber but the climate is too cold for lumber houses. Most of our houses are 40 or 50 feet high. The highest building is 110 feet high. The roof is made of dirt with tin on top to keep out the rain.

"We catch white fish, king salmon, black fish, green fish, silver salmon, chinook or red and dog salmon. We use the dog salmon for dog food. They are caught in fish nets or fish wheels. We cut them and hang them up to dry on a fish rack, then smoke them to keep flies and insects away. The fish hang from the poles that are in the fish rack. There are stones at the bottom to hold the fish net down; the round corks on top are to make it float. There is a big sack at the end, full of rocks. It pulls the net out in the Yukon River. The fish net is made of linen threads. The ropes and poles are used to hold the fish wheel against the shore. There is a box to hold the fish in. There are two logs on each side. The wheel is in the center of the raft. The fish wheel is made out of wire, the frame is made out of poles. The men catch about 400 or more at one time if the box is big. Last summer all the men caught about 20,000 pounds of salmon."

From the Unga Territorial School we learn about Squaw Harbor, about 7 miles from Unga.

"We usually go to Squaw Harbor by boat, although there is a trail across the mountains one may take when the Pacific is too rough for smaller boats. Our island is very mountainous. The scenery here is beautiful. We have

no trees, only those the people have planted in their yards in the village. Our weather isn't so cold, but trees do not grow unless planted. We have much warmer weather than the north central United States. The people have nice gardens in the summer. They are planted later than those in the States and are harvested later.

"One of our large fish is the halibut. It is usually caught in the deep water. The Pacific is very near the eastern side of Unga so the people fish for halibut near our village. The halibut grows to be very large. It is a flat fish. On one side it is light in color and on the other dark. Both the eyes are found on the dark side of its head, due to the fact that it rests at the bottom of the ocean on the white side. When the halibut's dark side is up, its enemies find it difficult to see it."

MOTHERS are busy people the world over and in a letter from Wainwright we learn that Alaskan mothers are no exception.

Jargaret Chmsogak tells us "What Mother Does."

Cunning dolls sent as gifts to children overseas by Junior Red Cross members, Bethel, Alaska. ➤



"Mother always cooks. Mother sews boots, mittens, parkas, pants, dresses, snowshirts, and skirts. Mother washes clothes. Mother sweeps and scrubs the floor. Mother bathes the baby and takes the bottle of warm milk to the baby. Mother always cleans the cupboards and washes the dishes. Sometimes Mother breaks the dishes. Mother goes to church on Sunday. Mother picks up coal from the beach in the summer time. Mother feeds the dogs and Father helps her. Sometimes Mother goes to the dance at school.

"We are glad Mother has some fun!

"We make our clothes from skin, woolen cloth, cotton cloth, and silk cloth. Calico is cotton cloth. Our dresses and shirts are made of cotton cloth. Our underwear is made of woolen cloth. Our boots, parkas, mittens, and pants are made of skins. Sometimes we have a snowshirt made of silk. For sewing Mother needs skins, sinew, needle, scraper, thimble, scissors, thread, calico, and a sewing machine."

And Father is a busy person, too, for he must provide "duck, seal, reindeer, ptarmigan, walrus, and oogrük meat for food."

In order to be well prepared for his hunting and fishing Father must have "pants, snowshirts, two parkas, boots, mittens, gloves, stockings, fur socks, fur pants, underwear, shirt, and cap. Father needs a dog team, dog feed for the dog, collars, and chains. When Father goes hunting, he needs a gun. He usually has a 30-30 or a 25-20. He has a shotgun for shooting ducks and a knife.

"For food he takes coffee, tea, sugar, milk, meat and flour. He takes a sleeping bag, cup, spoon, fork, knife, and teapot. He takes tobacco and matches. He uses a gasoline can for a stove. He burns coal in the stove. Some fathers use primus stoves. He needs a tent for a shelter to get away from the storms.

"He needs binoculars to see reindeer, wolves,

Alaska's Flag

Marie Drake

EIGHT stars of gold on a field of blue—
Alaska's flag. May it mean to you
The blue of the sea, the evening sky,
The mountain lakes, and the flowers near by;
The gold of the early sourdough dreams,
The precious gold of the hills and streams;
The brilliant stars in the northern sky
The "Bear"—the "Dipper"—and, shining high,
The great North Star with its steady light,
Over land and sea a beacon bright
The simple flag of a last frontier.

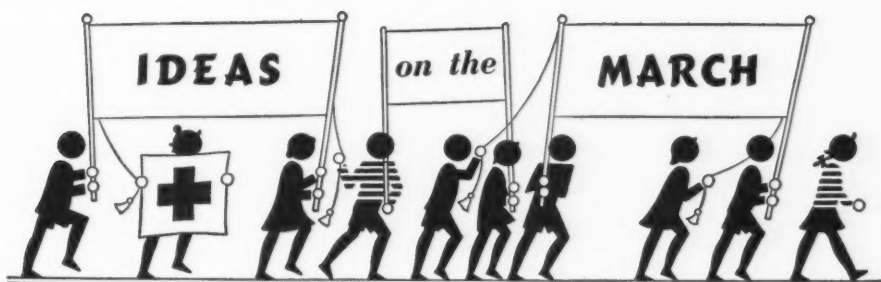
caribou, or foxes. He needs snow goggles so that the sun won't blind him. He needs traps to catch foxes. He must take cartridges for his gun. When Father goes fishing he uses a net to catch fish. He uses a spear for seals, oogrük, and walrus."

Many mainland schools wish to correspond with Alaska but unfortunately this is not possible at present. The Alaskan schools are few in comparison with ours and, as you have seen by these letters, conditions make correspondence difficult. For this reason we are sharing with all readers of the News the few albums received.

The albums are especially interesting this year, because it is the 80th anniversary of Uncle Sam's purchase of Alaska. In 1867 the United States paid Russia \$7,200,000 for this rich area of 581,780 square miles. Returns from Alaska's fishing, fur, lumber, and gold industries have many times exceeded the original purchase price.

Alice Ingersoll Thornton.





Not what we give, but what we share,
For the gift without the giver is bare.
—Lowell's "Vision of Sir Launfal."

MERRY CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS is certain to be merry for Junior Red Cross boys and girls who get their joy by sharing with others. This is a good time to count the blessings that come from sharing.

Aren't you glad to know that right in your own town, your gifts like soft toys give pleasure to children who may be ill? And not only in this country but overseas also, boys and girls will rejoice over gifts they have found in the boxes you sent them. And isn't it splendid that you can make Christmas happier for veterans in hospitals.

It makes one think of the verse, "Ceasing to give, we cease to have, such is the law of Love."

LAST MINUTE IDEAS FOR GIFTS

IF YOU HAVE just discovered a children's hospital, a convalescent home, or a home for the aged, which were not included in the fall planning of your Junior Red Cross, you may wish to make gifts for them also. The following suggestions for quickly made gifts may help you give Christmas cheer on a larger scale than you had at first planned.

Tiny pine cones painted in red, gilt, or silver tied with a saucy bow make tree or lapel ornaments. Bits of melted candles grow into fat Christmas candles, and brightly painted tin cans make candle-holders and ash trays.

Scraps of colored cloth make

Junior Red Cross members, Flint, Michigan, model Christmas carnival caps which they made for a children's home. They also painted tree ornaments which they had cut from tin.

cheerful designs on laundry bags made of feed sacks. Cereal boxes become festive sewing boxes when decorated with crayon or paint, and empty spools make tree decorations.

Cutting cellophane into strips for tree trimming is easy to do and adds Christmas glitter, just as do animals and birds made of gold and silver paper. Remember, too, that bits of ostrich plume or other feathers can be shaped to look like birds roosting in a Christmas tree.

Foods are always welcome. Jellies and preserves, chestnuts, candy, and candied apples can be presented in crepe-paper containers.

So if you have a last-minute call for extra gifts, talk with your teacher-sponsor about these simple, easy-to-make gift suggestions.

DECORATING CHRISTMAS BOXES

If you have saved boxes, especially berry boxes, during the year, now is the time to paint and decorate them and to fill them with fruit and nuts. Tied with a fluffy bow, they make handsome gifts for convalescents.

Sometimes invalid children have no place





Junior members of Hennepin County Chapter, Minneapolis, Minnesota, enjoy making stuffed toys for Christmas gifts to children's hospitals.

to keep their trinkets and toys. This was found to be true by the director of Junior Red Cross in the Oklahoma County Chapter, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. She learned that children in a convalescent home simply tucked their personal belongings under pillows and mattresses. The result was untidy beds.

To help this situation, a box-making project was begun by Junior Red Cross members. As a personal touch, the name of each convalescent child was placed on his or her box.

Blue waterproof ink makes an attractive decoration for a clean wooden box. (If the box needs cleaning first, marks and printing can be removed with sandpaper.) Dip a brush into full strength blue waterproof ink and apply it to the box in large splotches. Let it dry. Then thin the mixture, one part water to two parts ink, and apply as before. After this has dried, the ink is thinned again, until there are two parts water to one part ink. This last and lightest blue fills the remaining spaces of the box not covered before. Tiny gold or silver stars or a Christmas cut-out from a magazine pasted on the blue box make an unusual gift at little cost.

Another decoration is done by drawing or transferring a design on the box and applying plastic wood to areas of the design that you want raised. When the plastic has dried, smooth any rough spots with sandpaper and use the colored inks for staining. The ink should be rubbed while still wet. When the ink is dry, give the box a coat of wax.

Handkerchief, tie, candy, and match boxes can be decorated with attractive paper. If the covering on the box is in good condition, spatter painting will add freshness and color.

THE TOY LIBRARY

SATURDAY MORNING is an important time for school children in Albany, New York. On that day the Toy Library is open and there is a grand rush to borrow toys.

The Toy Library was begun in 1941 in a room set aside for it in the public John Howe Library and it grows more popular each year. It is sponsored by the Junior Red Cross of the Albany Chapter.

Toys are recorded by number. Any child, having his parent's permission, may take out the toy of his choice for a 2-week period, just as he would a library book. When the toy is returned, record is kept of the care taken of the toy.

The dolls are dressed by girls in school sewing classes. Sometimes a little borrower grows so fond of a doll that she cannot bear to part with it. Then she is given a 6-weeks' trial period for "doll adoption." Each week the student librarian inspects the condition of the doll's clothing, hair, and body. If the record shows that the little girl has proved a good "mother," adoption papers are signed. The doll then becomes hers for "keeps."

POLISH JUNIOR RED CROSS

REPORTS FROM Poland tell of the tremendous expansion of its Junior Red Cross program during the past two years. To provide them with supplies which will help them in their Junior Red Cross activities, the American Junior Red Cross, through the National Children's Fund, is sending the Polish Junior Red Cross a shipment of 80,000 gift boxes; 1,200 Junior Red Cross—Parent Teachers Association educational and health chests; 100,000 bars of toilet soap; 2,000 first-aid kits; 70,000 hand towels; 200,000 toothbrushes; and 200,000 combs.

—Marion Bloom.





AMERICAN RED CROSS PHOTO BY WALLER

POLISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

During Christmas week last year, a party was held for small children in the village of Sroda, in Poland.

St. Nicholas, the Polish Santa Claus, appeared at the party with gifts for all the children. He had received these toys from the Junior Red Cross of West Lewisville School, Jacksonville, Florida. St. Nicholas first asked the children whether they had been good boys and girls and then whether they knew where he had come from.

Some of the children answered right away, "From heaven," for that is where Polish children have been taught their Santa lives. One little boy looked up in St. Nicholas' face before he whispered, "Not from heaven, from America!"

International Santa Claus

SANTA CLAUS was really an international old fellow last year, when, with the help of the American Junior Red Cross members and their friends in the Canal Zone, he visited over 700 children in six orphanages in the Republic of Panama.

His big pack bulged with more than a thousand toys gathered together by his helpers. These toys were all distributed to boys and girls in the orphanages whose Christmas stockings would otherwise have been empty.



◀ A corner of the workshop showing some of the gifts collected by the American Junior Red Cross members of the Canal Zone for orphans of Panama.



Children in one of the orphanages in the Republic of Panama receiving dolls and other toys from their American Junior Red Cross friends in the Canal Zone.



Austrian Nieces and Nephews

DORA JANE HAMBLIN



IT MAY COME as something of a shock to you, but American Junior Red Cross members suddenly have become aunts—and this includes the boys as well as the girls!

Your nieces and nephews are several thousand girls and boys in Austria, all of whom refer to the American Red Cross as "Amerikanische Tante" (pronounced tann-ta and meaning "aunt") and regard everything which comes to them from the Red Cross as a gift of that particular "Tante."

It started months ago, when the American Junior Red Cross gift boxes were distributed to school children in Austria. As they opened their boxes in wide-eyed wonder at the toys and gifts inside them, the Austrian children wanted to know where they came from.

Their teachers explained that boys and girls in America had sent them, and that an American lady from the Red Cross had brought them to the schools. Later, when Junior Red Cross soft toys, educational kits, knitted garments, and other gifts came, their wonder at the generosity of the American aunts was unbounded.

It is difficult for Americans to understand how much their Red Cross work means to these nieces and nephews in Austria. Many of them lost their homes in the war, or their fathers. Many of their mothers have to work to support them. In the winter they are cold, often hungry. To them the jump rope or toy car in a gift box may be the most wonderful thing in the world.

In gratitude for their gifts, they wrote letters to the American Red Cross Civilian Relief worker in Vienna, the woman who distributes the Red Cross goods. The letters are written about many things—the shoes, the hot milk which Red Cross serves in their schools, the soap, the toys, the school supplies. Of course, Junior Red Cross didn't send them all these things, but it helped.

A girl named Margarete, who is in third grade, wrote: "Dear American aunts of the Red Cross: Today I am writing my first letter to my unknown helpers. I do not know you,

but I am very grateful that you gave me the good milk daily. Especially in wintertime I was very happy, that always when I came to school I got my hot milk. At home I had only black coffee." . . .

New shoes were a wonderful surprise to 10-year-old Eva, who wrote to the "Dear American Aunt" that "Now I always get very mad if somebody steps on my feet in the overcrowded tram, because I keep my new shoes very clean at home."

A little girl named Valerie and her brother Robert thanked the Red Cross in the quaint English of this little verse:

*American you are so dear,
You help so many children here
In Austria and other lands
Where is the need, give you your hands.*

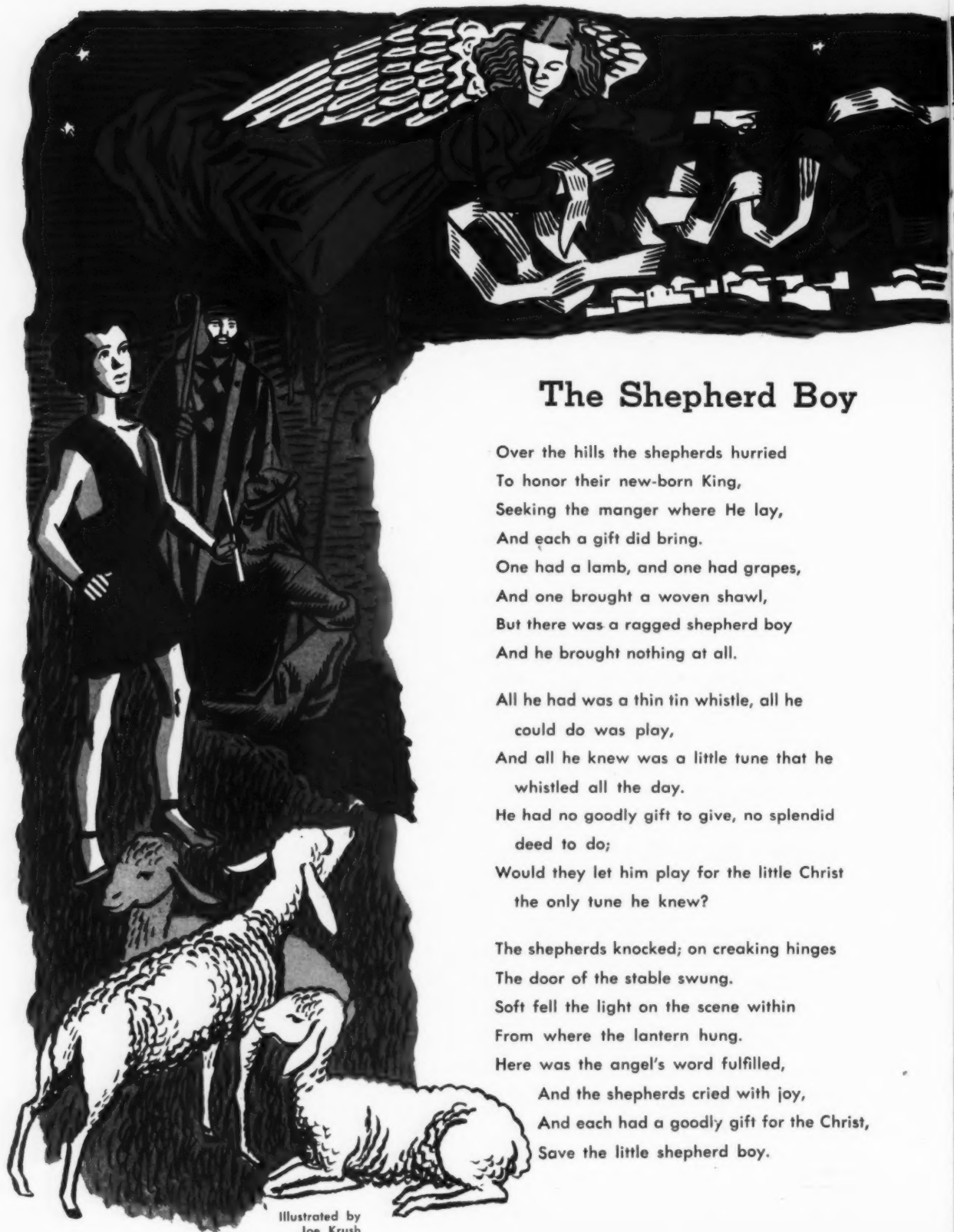
*In Austria, if young or old,
Everyone is very cold,
But all the things are here to less
To be with eat, with shoes or dress.*

*Now thank you say a girl and boy
Two children, which have had a joy
Enormous so, like Christmastime
They have received clothing fine.*

Despite all that has been done, the Austrian nieces and nephews still need their aunts' help, as this last letter shows: "Dear Red Cross: Our Mommy brought us a lot of nice things for which I want to thank you in the name of my brothers and sisters. We tried the dresses on at once.

"My little brother asked whether we got chocolate too, but Mommy said we should be glad that we got clothing. It does not matter if our stomach grumbles a little."

This letter was signed, "Lots of kisses to the many dear aunts, from Anni, Rudi, and Lisi."



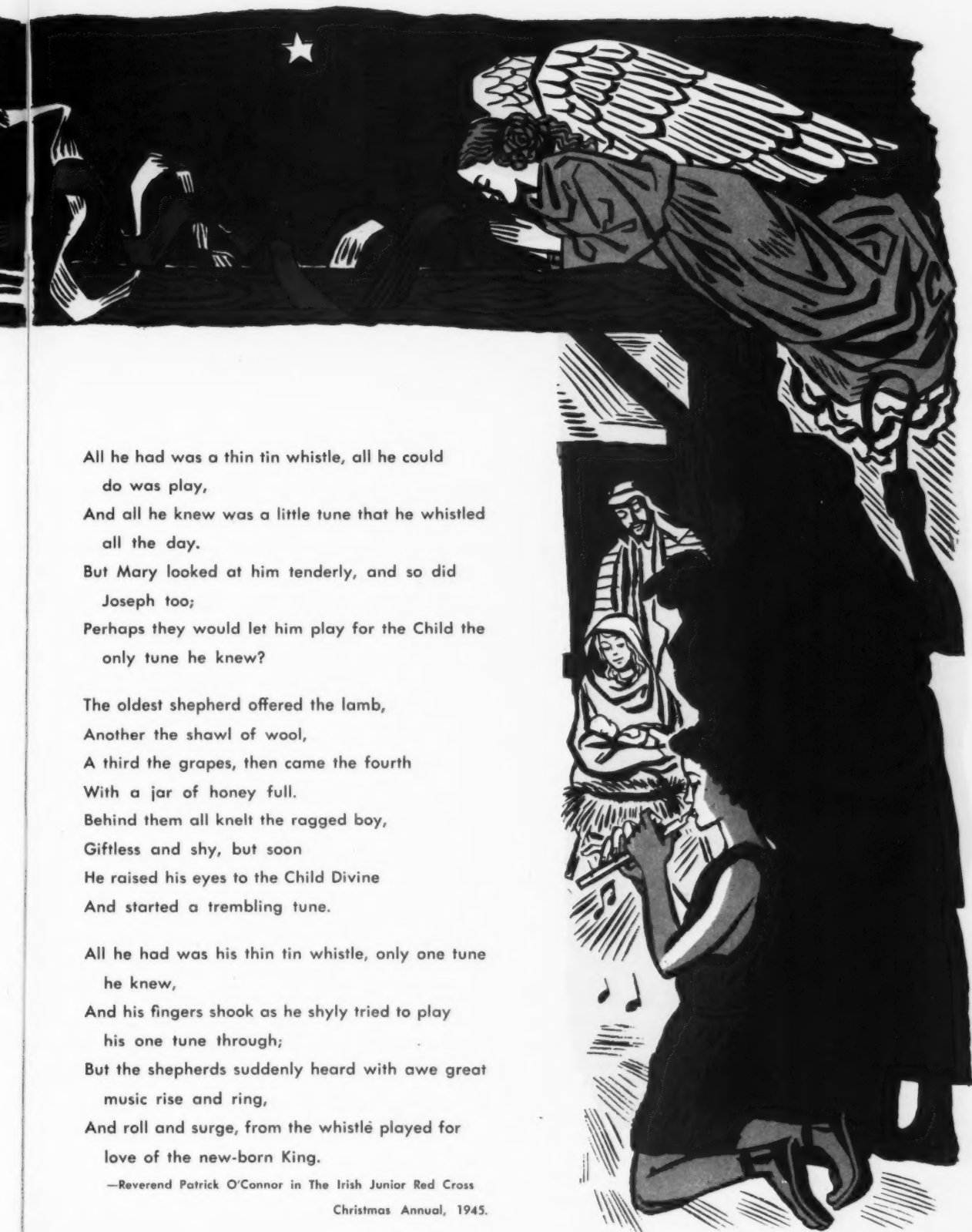
The Shepherd Boy

Over the hills the shepherds hurried
To honor their new-born King,
Seeking the manger where He lay,
And each a gift did bring.
One had a lamb, and one had grapes,
And one brought a woven shawl,
But there was a ragged shepherd boy
And he brought nothing at all.

All he had was a thin tin whistle, all he
could do was play,
And all he knew was a little tune that he
whistled all the day.
He had no goodly gift to give, no splendid
deed to do;
Would they let him play for the little Christ
the only tune he knew?

The shepherds knocked; on creaking hinges
The door of the stable swung.
Soft fell the light on the scene within
From where the lantern hung.
Here was the angel's word fulfilled,
And the shepherds cried with joy,
And each had a goodly gift for the Christ,
Save the little shepherd boy.

Illustrated by
Joe Krush



All he had was a thin tin whistle, all he could
do was play,
And all he knew was a little tune that he whistled
all the day.
But Mary looked at him tenderly, and so did
Joseph too;
Perhaps they would let him play for the Child the
only tune he knew?

The oldest shepherd offered the lamb,
Another the shawl of wool,
A third the grapes, then came the fourth
With a jar of honey full.
Behind them all knelt the ragged boy,
Giftless and shy, but soon
He raised his eyes to the Child Divine
And started a trembling tune.

All he had was his thin tin whistle, only one tune
he knew,
And his fingers shook as he shyly tried to play
his one tune through;
But the shepherds suddenly heard with awe great
music rise and ring,
And roll and surge, from the whistle played for
love of the new-born King.

—Reverend Patrick O'Connor in *The Irish Junior Red Cross*
Christmas Annual, 1945.



Topics for Teachers



CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS

Teachers interested in obtaining suitable materials for Christmas assemblies and programs may find helpful the following books, recommended by the Public Library of the District of Columbia.

Christmas, a Book of Stories Old and New, by Alice Dalgliesh. Scribner, N. Y.

Animals' Christmas, by Annie T. Eaton. Viking Press, N. Y.

Merry Christmas to You, Stories for Christmas, by Wilhelmina Harper. Dutton, N. Y.

Christmas Everywhere, by E. H. Sechrist. MacCrae-Smith, N. Y.

Christmas Book of Legends and Stories, by Smith and Hazeltine. Lothrop, Boston, Mass. Revised edition 1944.

Plays for High Holidays, by Tobitt and White. Dutton, N. Y.

CHRISTMAS RECORDINGS

Adeste Fideles (O Come All Ye Faithful), Portugal. Mark Andrews (organ), Victor 20298. Reverse side: *Silent Night*, Gruber.

Songs for Children (hymns) from "Elementary Music." Quartet: Klene, Baker, Murphy, and Shaw, with Myrtle C. Eaver at piano. Victor 24243. Includes: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*; *O Little Town of Bethlehem*; *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*; *Silent Night*; *Fairest Lord Jesus*; *O Come All Ye Faithful*.

Cradle Song (Lullaby), Brahms. Elizabeth Schumann. Victor 1756.

Ave Maria, Bach. Charles Gounod. Columbia 9143-M.

Reverse side: Handel's *Largo*, sung by Charles Kulman.

The Hallelujah Chorus, Handel. The Royal Society of London. Victor 11825.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Opportunities for grade-school participation in community programs at Christmas time are legion.

Junior Red Cross chairmen report numerous activities through which Junior members in former years have brought Christmas cheer to public homes, hospitals, and other community groups.

Christmas carols, plays, and parties are often welcomed by these institutions.

Don't forget that *Christmas Decoration Units* (ARC 1420) contains many ideas for menu covers, table decorations and favors, and Christmas cards.

Westchester County (New York) Chapter reports the following items produced by younger elementary-school boys and girls: simple caps for children; "New Havens"; doll beds equipped with tiny sheets, plaid blankets, and thumb-sized pillows.

Los Angeles (California) Chapter reports a successful gift project—weaving woolen beanies for small children.

Long Beach (California) Chapter Junior members successfully completed simple wooden puzzles for use of children in an orthopedic clinic. The type of puzzle was suggested by the clinic staff, and the puzzles were received enthusiastically by staff as well as patients.

Newark (New Jersey) Chapter suggests gifts such as

scrapbooks with bright pages in which recipients can paste their favorite family photographs; bright ink bottles, made by painting ordinary ink bottles with lacquer paint, and adding gelatin transfer decorations; costumed yarn dolls for curtain pulls.

HOW-TO-MAKE-IT BOOKS

For ideas for craft work, go to your Junior Red Cross chairman. The following books may also offer helpful suggestions for making that "something different" for Christmas gifts.

Arts and Crafts, a Practical Handbook by Marguerite Ickis. A. S. Barnes Co., N. Y.

It's Fun to Make Things, by Parkhill and Spaeth. A. S. Barnes Co.

Linoleum Block Printing, by Charlotte Bone. Beacon Press, Boston, Mass.

Your Craft Book, by Newkirk-Zutter. International Textbook Co., Scranton, Pa.

FILMS FOR ASSEMBLIES

Several new Red Cross films are available without charge to schools. They are 16 mm. sound. If your school does not have a sound motion-picture projector, perhaps the chapter can provide a machine and operator for showing the films.

Current films are: "Call to Action," the 1947 March of Time, 8 minutes; the 1947 "Newsreel No. 12," 19 minutes; and "Disaster Strikes," 17 minutes.

Upper elementary and junior high grades will find the films interesting.

Elizabeth W. Robinson.



PHOTO BY COURTESY OF EDGAR CARLSON, AND ALICE L. SICKELS OF THE
INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT, INC.

Our American Christmas is really an international holiday since our Christmas customs come from many lands.

Scandinavian customs include providing a sheaf of grain for the birds, and the hanging of the flags of all nations on the Christmas tree as a symbol of goodwill to all people.

AMERICAN JUNIOR RED CROSS

LIVINGSTON L. BLAIR.....Vice President
for School and College Activities, American Red Cross
EDWARD A. RICHARDS...Director, American Junior Red Cross
ELDON W. MASON.....Deputy Director
THOMAS A. DEVINE.....Assistant Director
ALICE INGERSOLL THORNTON.....Assistant Director

LOIS S. JOHNSON.....Editor, the NEWS
ELEANOR C. FISHBURN.....Managing Editor
HELEN S. LOENHOLDT.....Art Editor
MARION BLOOM, WILLIAM J. FLYNN,
ELIZABETH W. ROBINSON.....Contributing Editors

The American Junior Red Cross is the
American Red Cross in the schools

Next Month in the News

• The theme of "communication" will be emphasized throughout the issue, with special stress on school correspondence as a Junior Red Cross opportunity for communication with others.

• *Sequoyah, the Alphabet Maker*, is a story of the Cherokee chief who wrote an alphabet for his people.

• *A Century of Postage Stamps* brings some interesting facts of the postage stamp centenary.

• School correspondence from Denmark — "Land of Hans Christian Andersen"—gives little-known facts about the peace hut there.

• Two short stories, one especially for boys, "Eddie and the Black Imp," the other for girls, "Little Boy Blues," neither boys nor girls will want to miss.



AMERICAN JUNIOR RED CROSS

CALENDAR of ACTIVITIES



HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

carry cheer to shut-ins at Christmas time

1947

DECEMBER

1947

Sun.

Mon.

Tues.

Wed.

Thurs.

Fri.

Sat.

Make menu covers and table favors for hospital Christmas parties.	1	2	3	4	5	Plan a school Christmas program based on Junior Red Cross activities.
Nearby homes for the blind may welcome entertainment planned by JRC members.	8	9	10	11	12	Read CHRISTMAS MUSY, a tune-fun musical play in the December NEWS.
THE FEAST DAY OF ST. NICHOLAS, page 14 of the NEWS, is a happy holiday story.	15	16	17	18	19	Window trans-parents make rooms gay for shut-ins.
Let's make it a SAFE 22nd as a HAPPY Christ-mas-tide.	22	23	24	25	26	Read THE SHEP-HERD BOY, a poem, page 24 of the NEWS.
Save your Christmas cards; you can make scrap pages of them for chil-dren's hospitals.	29	30	31	THE HOLIDAYS ARE OVER, but hospital patients, shut-ins, friends in homes for aged, our neighbors overseas will need gifts and messages of cheer the whole year through. Plan a program of giving that will bring them a bright NEW YEAR.		